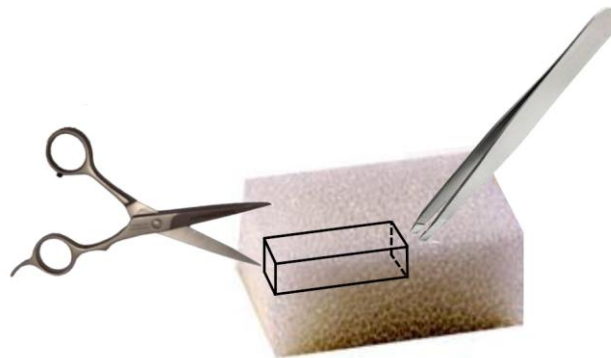


## Aquarium filter and water sampling protocol

*The sponge and water samples should be collected on or close to June 2<sup>nd</sup> to avoid potential artefacts associated with extended freezing. This study will only require samples of sponge (foam) material as used in common aquarium filters (e.g. Aquaclear, Fluval, Eheim).*

- 1) Open the filter of your aquarium.
- 2) Remove filter **making sure not to touch the section you intend to remove**.
- 3) Carefully use a match (or lighter) to **briefly** flame the scissors you will be using to cut the filter material. This will destroy any organisms or DNA that might be present on your scissors.
- 4) Cut a roughly 1.5 cm x 1.5 cm x 3 cm strip from your sponge, perpendicular to the flow of water so that you may continue using the sponge in your filter. Please select an area that is relatively free of sludge/slime because the microorganisms we will detect grow best in filter areas with ample oxygen. See image below.
- 5) Use tweezers to transfer the sponge sample to an unused Ziploc bag. Avoid touching the sampled sponge fragment with your hands.
- 6) Collect a water sample in an additional Ziploc bag and seal.
- 7) If sampling on June 2<sup>nd</sup>, place the filter segment and water sample in your fridge until you bring them to the meeting. If sampling must be done prior to the 2<sup>nd</sup>, store the samples in a freezer (non frost-free is best).
- 8) **Fill out the response form for this sponge/water sample** (next page) and attach to the Ziploc bag.
- 9) Repeat steps 1-8 (including filling out an additional form) for any other representative aquaria in your home that you would be willing include in this study. We are hoping to include freshwater, marine fish, reef, brackish, and plant tanks in this study.
- 10) Bring all samples and completed forms to the KVAS meeting on June 2<sup>nd</sup>.



Thank you for your participation in this research. If you have any questions or comments before or after the KVAS meeting, please contact Dr. Josh Neufeld at [jneufeld@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:jneufeld@uwaterloo.ca)

## Aquarium Sample Form

**Name:**

**Email address:**

**Sampling date:**

**Sample number (if providing from more than one aquarium):**

**Date the filter sample removed:**

**Type of aquarium:**    Freshwater   /   Saltwater   /   Reef   /   Plant   /   Brackish

(circle any that apply)

**Aquarium established (approximate year, or month if 2009):**

**Aquarium size (gallons):**

**Number of fish in the aquarium (approximately):**

**Has an filter supplement product been used (e.g. Cycle)?**

**When was the sponge last replaced (approximately):**

**pH of the aquarium (if known):**

**Does the aquarium contain live plants?**    Yes                    /                    No

**Has the aquarium been treated with antibiotics in the last 6 months? (if yes, please describe)**

**Type(s) of fish (describe):**

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**NAME FOR DRAW:** \_\_\_\_\_